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County Administrator's Weekly Digest
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MYSTERY DOCUMENT

The state was abuzz yesterday as the "mystery document" quickly spread across the land. As explained at Metro Council yesterday, a lobbyist was walking in the capitol and was approached by someone who handed him the mystery document and asked if he had seen it yet. No-one is taking responsibility for the document and it could have many different intentions. One thing for sure, the detail and accuracy of the document indicates that it must have been generated from inside the state bureaucracy. Below please find comments from Don Stypula and Gongwer.

Forwarded from Don Stypula, Executive Director of GVMC

During the legislative update at this morning's GVMC Board meeting, I discussed the so-called "Mystery Document," a 27-page, highly detailed, spreadsheet summary that outlines \$2.98 billion in general fund budget cuts, including such things as privatizing the University of Michigan to reinstating good time credits in the Department of Corrections to ending statutory revenue sharing, that has been circulating among capital insiders. It's a mystery because so far no one is claiming credit for the document and no one is saying any of the proposed cuts could be accomplished.

Mostly the document, which offers \$5.62 billion in overall cuts, at this point appears to have circulated amongst Democratic and liberal leaning groups, with some concerned it may represent the range of ideas that Governor-elect Rick Snyder might propose as he wrestles with proposing a balanced budget for FY 2012 by March 1. But a spokesperson for Snyder said no one in the incoming administration had seen the document, unless it was brought in and distributed at the different policy proposal meetings Mr. Snyder held during the campaign and afterwards.

The document has not been endorsed by transition staff as something for Mr. Snyder to consider. Until the appointment of John Nixon as budget director earlier this week there was no discussion of working on the upcoming budget and possible budget cuts.

The document, which I have attached for your review, has no claim of authorship. It is simply titled "FY 2012 Reduction Ideas" and the title page shows it was updated on November 12 and printed on November 15.

Whoever wrote the document clearly knows and understands the state budget inside and out. The document not only lists policies and programs, as well as dollar amounts in savings (both in terms of overall spending and general fund spending), it also details how the programs were created, whether ending them could result in the loss of federal funding and whether legal changes would be needed to allow for the cuts.

So, who wrote it? Officials from both the House and Senate Fiscal agencies deny authorship. So does the Midland-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Asked if it was something the Granholm

Administration might have prepared to help ready Snyder's incoming administration, Granholm spokesperson Liz Boyd said she had no knowledge of the document.

Republican legislative leaders also said they had no knowledge of the document and what it proposed could be cut.

And lobbyists and organizations that have more ties to Republicans said they had no knowledge of the document, though among labor and progressive groups the document seemed fairly well-known.

Forwarded by Megan Swain, Executive Director, Michigan Department of Public Health
As reported by Gongwer:

A 24-page, highly detailed, document that outlines \$2.98 billion in general fund budget cuts, including such things as privatizing the University of Michigan to reinstating good time credits in the Department of Corrections to ending statutory revenue sharing, has been circulating among capital insiders, but no one so far is claiming credit for the document and no one is saying any of the proposals could be made. Mostly the document, which offers \$5.62 billion in overall cuts, at this point appears to have circulated amongst Democratic and liberal leaning groups, with some concerned it may represent the range of ideas that [Governor-elect Rick Snyder](#) will propose in terms of trying to balance the budget when he takes office in January.

But a spokesperson for Mr. Snyder said no one in the upcoming administration had seen the document, unless it was brought in and distributed at the different policy proposal meetings Mr. Snyder held during the campaign and afterwards.

The document has not been endorsed by transition staff as something for Mr. Snyder to consider, said Bill Nowling, the transition spokesperson.

So the twin mysteries of the document are who wrote it and to what purpose.

The document has no claim of authorship. It is simply titled "FY 2012 Reduction Ideas" and the title page shows it was updated on November 12 and printed on November 15.

Whoever wrote the document clearly knows and understands the state budget inside and out. The document not only lists policies and programs, as well as dollar amounts in savings (both in terms of overall spending and general fund spending), it also details how the programs were created, whether ending them could result in the loss of federal funding and whether legal changes would be needed to allow for the cuts.

It's relatively spare commentary is also written in classic bureaucratize, with passive voice throughout and overuse of "impact" as a verb.

Among the more eye-catching concepts outlined in the white paper (the general fund amount saved is in parentheses):

- Eliminate public support for the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor over five years (\$63.25 million in the 2011-12 fiscal year)
- **Remove Optional Medicaid services: Adult home help (\$99.25 million), home- and community-based services (\$65.9 million), Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (\$8 million), hospice services (\$38.9 million), pharmaceutical services (\$116.7 million), mental health and substance abuse services (\$548 million)**
- **Eliminate of all statutory revenue sharing to cities, villages, townships and counties (\$444 million)**
- Reinstating good time credits and community residential programs for prisoners (\$129.5 million)
- End 21st Century Jobs Fund (\$75 million)
- Eliminate Fire Protection Grants that provide funding to local governments that are in charge of fire protection for state buildings in their jurisdiction (\$10.9 million)
- Privatize state psychiatric hospitals (estimated savings up to \$5 million)
- Privatize a 1,600-1,900 bed minimum or medium security prison (\$4.3 million)

- **Move to state control the foster care and adoption services now with private child placing agencies (\$5 million to \$20 million)**
- Eliminate State Police road patrols (\$25.5 million)
- Eliminate all Library of Michigan staff and make collections inaccessible to the public (\$3.88 million)
- Eliminate state disability assistance program (\$22.5 million)

So, who wrote it? Officials from both the House and Senate Fiscal agencies deny authorship. To begin with, anything they wrote would have carried the individual fiscal agencies' letterhead, directors and officials of both agencies said.

Mitch Bean of the House Fiscal Agency said his agency did develop some thoughts on possible budget cuts, but those were limited to one page.

Because the document mentions privatizing the University of Michigan, which the Mackinac Center for Public Policy has proposed, some suggested the document may have come from it. But Jack McHugh with the Mackinac Center denied it, again saying their proposals for saving the state money would be limited to a few pages (plus the document does suggest maximizing some specific taxes - which the Mackinac Center would be loathe to do - and does not tie them to other tax cuts, which the Mackinac Center would be likely to do).

Asked if it was something the administration of [Governor Jennifer Granholm](#) might have prepared to help ready Mr. Snyder's incoming administration, Granholm spokesperson Liz Boyd said she had no knowledge of the document and when dealing with matters for the new administration the new administration would be the one to ask.

Republican legislative leaders also said they had no knowledge of the document and what it proposed could be cut.

And lobbyists and organizations that have more ties to Republicans said they had no knowledge of the document, though among labor and progressive groups the document seemed fairly well-known.

WIND ENERGY LEGISLATION

County Commissioners and Administration have received several messages from residents concerned that the state legislature would act on wind energy legislation in the lame duck session. As predicted by GCSI, the legislation was not voted out of committee and the legislative session ended yesterday. I have no doubt that the legislation will be reintroduced in the next session.

OLIVE SHORES GRANT UPDATE (John Scholtz)

The Parks Commission received exciting news at its December 1 meeting with the announcement by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund that its Olive Shores improvement project is on the list of projects recommended for funding in the current grant cycle. The Trust Fund Board's recommendations will be presented to the state legislature in early 2011 for inclusion in an appropriation bill. If funds are successfully appropriated, the grant funding will likely be made available in mid 2011 with park improvements completed in 2012.

Olive Shores is a new 20 acre county park with 738 feet of Lake Michigan frontage located in Port Sheldon Township. Land acquisition was completed to establish the new park in early 2009. A master plan was developed through a public master planning process in the fall of 2009 with assistance from a grant through the State's Coastal Management Program. Based on this new master plan, the Parks Commission submitted a grant proposal to the Trust Fund in the spring of 2010.

The \$365,000 grant will be matched with county park millage funds to undertake park improvements estimated to cost \$730,000. Park improvements will include an approximate 50 car parking lot set back from Olive Shores Drive. Barrier free trails will be provided through the forested back-dune area. A primary trail leading to a dune stairway will take park visitors over the large dune, known as Mt. Olive, to the beach on Lake Michigan. The design of all park facilities emphasizes preservation of the site's unique natural features.

Park improvements will also include modern restrooms and interpretive signs focusing on site natural features and also the movie filming that took place at the site in 1999 (*Road to Perdition* with Tom Hanks). A limited number of barrier free picnic sites will be provided near the parking area. A separate pedestrian and bike access trail will be provided off of Olive Shores Drive. The plan also calls for viewing areas on the dune top and a boardwalk along the dune ridge to provide opportunities to explore the wooded dune and enjoy the Lake Michigan vistas.

Ottawa County Parks is working to establish greenways along the Lake Michigan coast and the county's major river corridors. The Olive Shores project will provide much needed additional access to Lake Michigan. Funding for the greenway initiatives comes from the county parks millage, a ten year tax levy which was most recently renewed by voters in 2006.

DISPATCH STATISTICS (Tim Smith)

The numbers handled through Central Dispatch for November 2010 were:

Total Incidents – 8,812 down 1% over November 2009 and down 3.1% YTD over 2009

Fire Incidents – 1,092 up 9.9% over November 2009 and down 1.7% YTD over 2009

Law Incidents – 7,720 down 2.7% over November 2009 and down 3.4% YTD over 2009

911 Calls – 7,080 even with November 2009 and down 6.6% YTD over 2009

911 Hang Up calls - 844 down 2.3% over November 2009 and up 8.6% YTD over 2009

Wireless 911 calls – 73.7% of 911 calls for November and 72.8% of 911 calls YTD

911 calls answered in 10 seconds or less - 95.6% for November and 93.2% YTD 2010
(NENA recommended standard is 90% within 10 seconds)

OTTAWA COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (Mark Knudsen)

Attached please find the most recent unemployment data (through October 2010) for Ottawa County, Michigan, and the Nation. Data are also included for Ottawa County's local units of government with a population of 25,000 or more.

BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS APPLICATION PROCESS (Keith Van Beek)

At their meeting on November 23 the Board of Commissioners moved to expand the Ottawa County Road Commission from the current three (3) members to five (5) members. This change takes effect as of January 1, 2011. Road Commissioners are appointed by the Board of Commissioners, and it is the intent that these appointments will be made by the end of this year. Applications will be accepted until **Friday, December 10 at 5:00 PM**, via the County website at <https://www.miottawa.org/BoardAppointments/ViewPosting.jsp>.

MUSKETAWA - WHITE-PINE TRAILS - TRIICK FARM ISSUE (Nate Lisenbee)

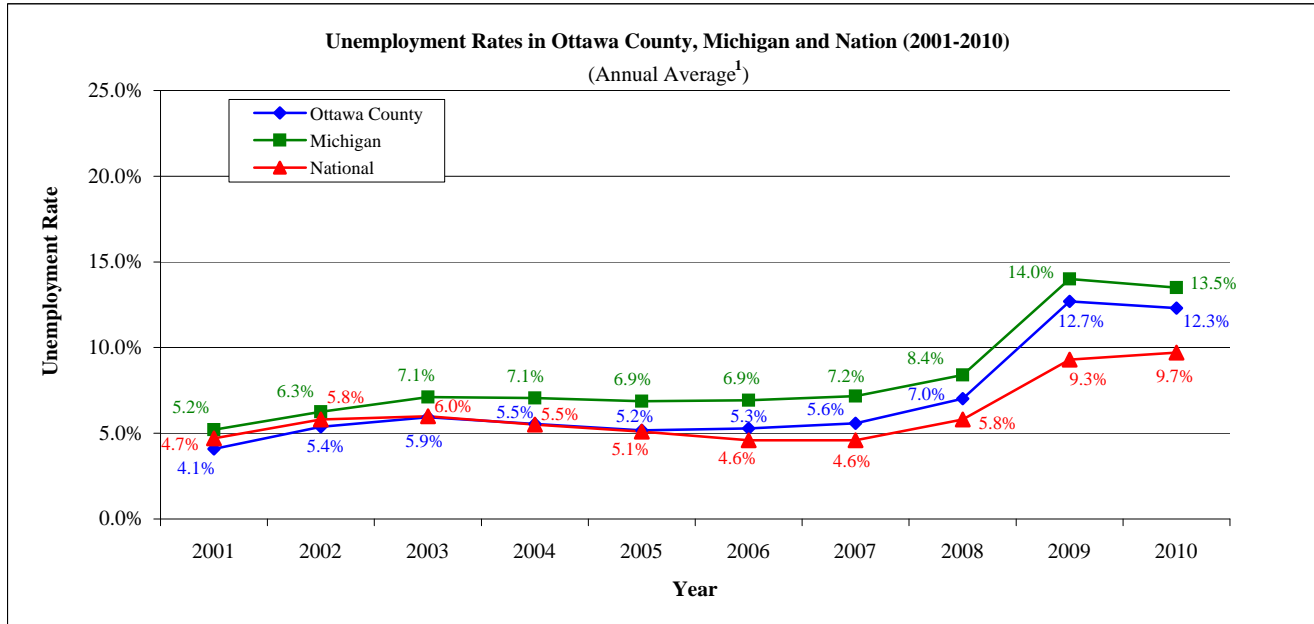
As you may know, the Ottawa County Planning Commission has been directed to review the proposed pathway park route in Wright Township, Ottawa County that would connect the Musketawa and White-Pine Trails. The Ottawa County Planning Commission will be reviewing a staff report on this issue from the County Planning Department at their next meeting. The Planning Commission will take the staff report and any comments received at the meeting and develop a recommendation to send to the County Board of Commissioners regarding the trail route.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Ottawa County Fillmore Complex. Any interested parties are welcome to attend, and there will be time for public comment (comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person). A link to the meeting agenda and packet will be emailed to you next week. In the meantime, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Unemployment Rates

Ottawa County, Michigan, Nation

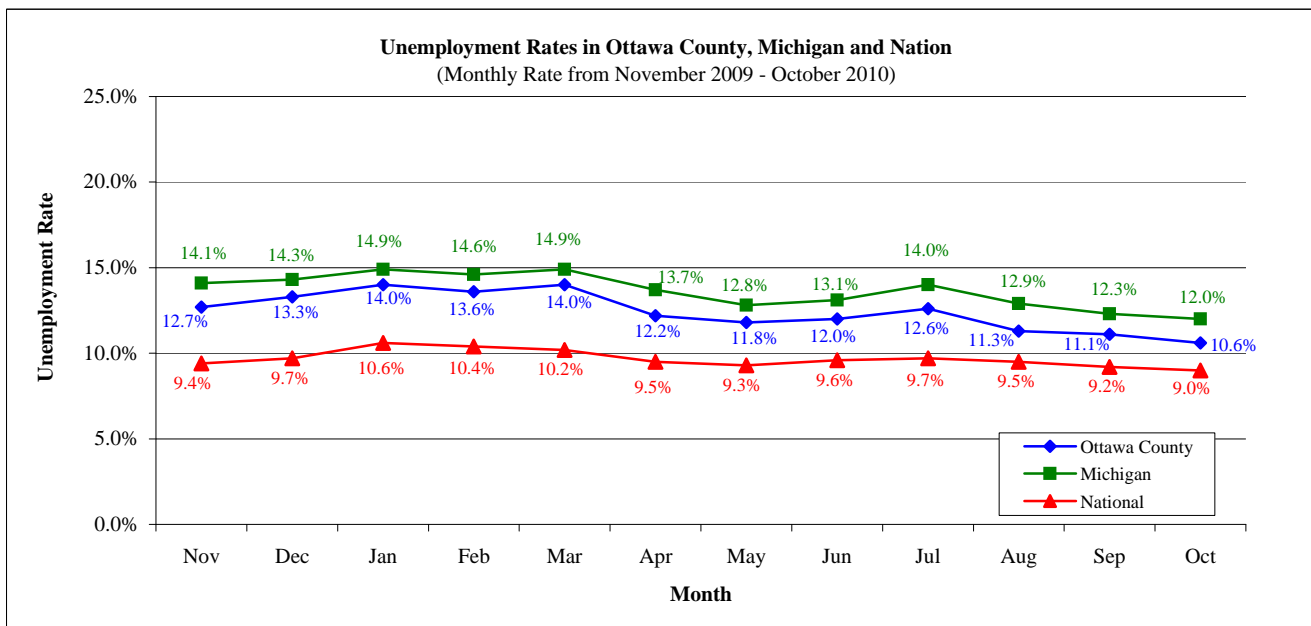
Annual Rates (2001-2010)



Source: Michigan Labor Market Information (Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth)

¹ The annual average is based on 10-months of data

Monthly Rates (Previous 12 Months)

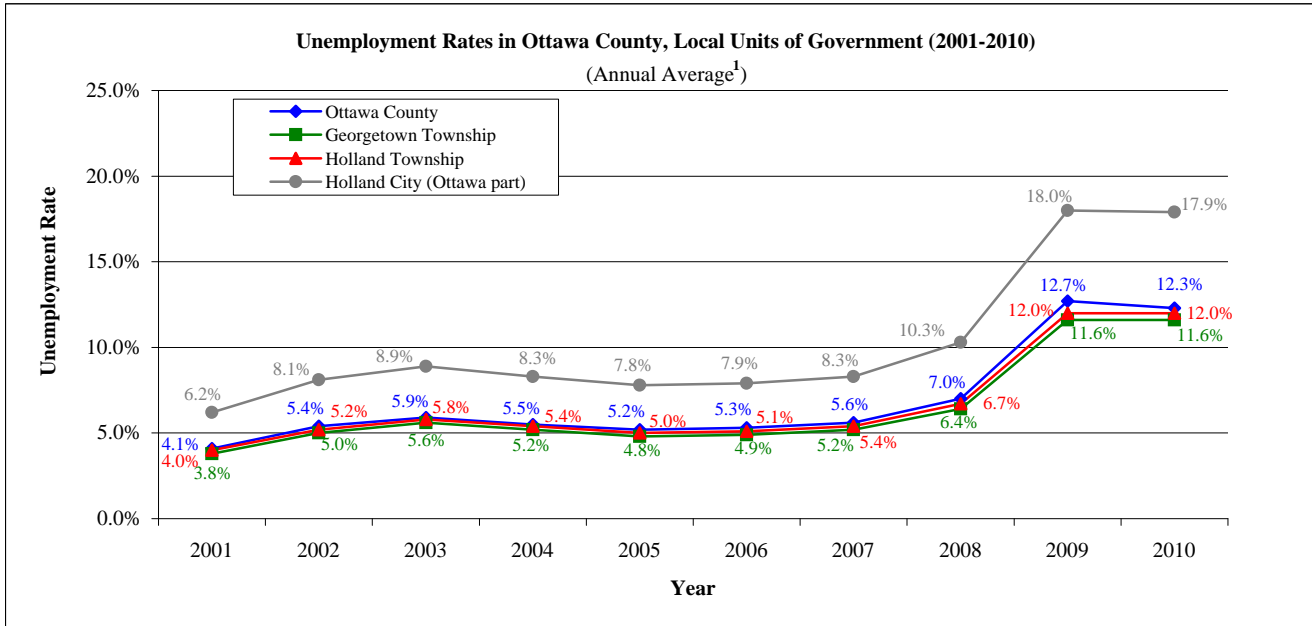


Source: Michigan Labor Market Information (Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth)

Unemployment Rates

Ottawa County and Local Units of Government with a Population of 25,000 or more

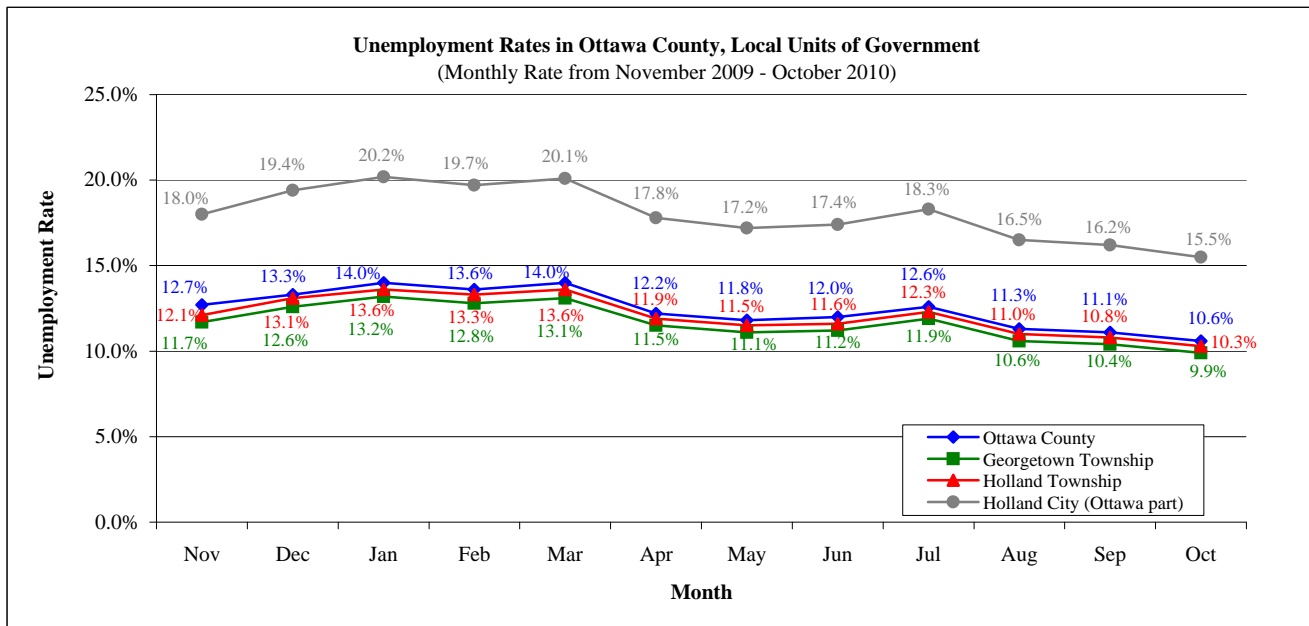
Annual Rates (2001-2010)



Source: Michigan Labor Market Information (Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth)

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Monthly Rates (Previous 12 Months)



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